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Search for Planet X

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The effort this year will be entirely observational. The region of the sky in which we believe Planet X should now be, based on perturbations observed in the motions of Uranus and Neptune, was determined last year, and there has been no reason to update that determination. A limited area of that region was photographed last year, and that will be continued this year. A given area is photographed with our twin 20-cm astrograph in New Zealand on two successive nights near the time that area is in opposition, and these plates are blinked in Washington to identify anything that has moved. The predicted region is in the South, which requires observations from a southern station, and it is in opposition in the April to June period, which means observations have not yet started this year. Blinking will be done as soon as the plates are received in Washington, but it will only be at the very end of the fiscal year before we have any results, positive or negative.